

**Northeast Public Health Labs Teleconference Series**

**Updated: December 7, 2007**

**NOTE: New Conference code for January and February, 2008**

**January 7, 2008**

**Topic: Blood Lead Testing**

Time: 11 am – 12 noon Telephone number: 410-786-3100 conference code: 684235

Facilitator: Ed Luce, QA manager, Vermont State Laboratory

Email: eluce@vdh.state.vt.us

Phone: 802-863-7637

**Agenda**

1. Describe what instrumentation is used for Blood Lead and EP testing
  2. Describe what QC material and action limits are used for test runs
  3. Discuss the action levels and reportable limits in each state
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**February 4, 2008**

**Topic: Processing and Testing Environmental Samples for Biological and Chemical agents**

Time: 11 am – 12 noon Telephone number: 410-786-3100 conference code: 684235

Facilitator: Peggy DiNatale, QA MA DPH

Email: Margaret.DiNatale@MassMail.State.Ma.Us

Phone: 617-983-6243

**Agenda**

1. What screening is required to be performed by the first responders before the State Lab will accept the sample?
2. When an environmental sample needs to be sent to the State Lab, are first responders instructed to collect: (a) most or all of the sample; (b) an aliquot of the sample; (c) a swab of the sample?
3. What is the acceptable protocol for handling suspect envelopes in the field? Must they be closed or open when they are submitted to the lab?
4. What chemical screening is performed by your state's first responders?
5. After the lab's biohazard testing is negative, what chemical testing is performed by the LRN-C lab?
6. What trainings are your BT/CT labs providing to first responders?

**Northeast Public Health Labs Teleconference Series**

**Updated: December 7, 2007**

**NOTE: New conference code for March – December, 2008**

**March 3, 2008**

**Topic: Sequence Analysis for Bacteria and Mycobacteria**

Time: 11 am – 12 noon Telephone number: 410-786-3100 conference code: 470797

Facilitator: Kimberly Musser, Ph.D. - Director, Bacteriology Laboratory, Wadsworth Center  
Email: [musser@wadsworth.org](mailto:musser@wadsworth.org) Phone: 518-473-2780

**Agenda**

1. What sequence analysis assays are used in your laboratory? Are they used for identification or characterization?
2. Are any of these assays reported on clinical samples as a stand alone test or in conjunction with classical methods? Is any environmental sequence analysis performed?
3. How are these tests validated? What databases are utilized?
4. How are they being reported? Are these results reported in conjunction with the results of conventional test methods?

Some examples for discussion may include: 16S, 23S, rpoB, katG, embB, pncA for TB resistance, KPC gene, tcdC deletion in *C. difficile*

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**April 7, 2008**

**Topic: Biosafety for High Containment Laboratories**

Time: 11 am – 12 noon Telephone number: 410-786-3100 conference code: 470797

Facilitator: Christina Egan, Ph.D. – Deputy Director, Biodefense Laboratory, Wadsworth Center  
Email: [cte01@health.state.ny.us](mailto:cte01@health.state.ny.us) Phone: 518-473-6900

**Agenda**

1. Recommendations for PPE and serum banking
  2. BT agent surveillance (culture and molecular)
  3. Staff proficiency strategies for BSL3 laboratories
  4. Select agent storage and inventory
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**May 5, 2008**

**Topic: NELAC Accreditation for Laboratories Testing BioThreat Samples**

Time: 11 am – 12 noon Telephone number: 410-786-3100 conference code: 470797

Facilitator - Christina Egan, Ph.D. - Deputy Director, Biodefense Laboratory  
Email: [cte01@health.state.ny.us](mailto:cte01@health.state.ny.us) Phone: 518-473-6900

**Agenda**

1. Staff qualifications for analysts
2. QA/QC procedures for biothreat sample processing
3. Issues with laboratories complying with both CLIA and NELAC standards

**Northeast Public Health Labs Teleconference Series**  
**Updated: December 7, 2007**

**June 2, 2008**

**Topic: ELISA testing**

Time: 11 am – 12 noon

Telephone number: 410-786-3100

conference code: 470797

**Facilitator TBD**

Tentative Agenda

1. Who performs ELISA testing in your state laboratory? One laboratory or multiple laboratories.
  2. What ELISA testing does your laboratory perform? (Brucella, Tularemia, DigiELISA for FERN botulinum assay, other assays)
  3. How do you perform these assays
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